



WINGSPAN

2015 Russell Egnor Navy Media Award winning newspaper



Vol. 22, No. 20

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

October 6, 2016



Flu season strikes

--page 3



Dedication to community, veterans

-- page 6



Ombudsman honored

-- page 9

Sweeping changes Navy announces enlisted rating modernization plan

Navy Public Affairs

Following the completion of its review earlier this year, the Navy announced Sept. 29, it will modernize all rating titles for Sailors with the establishment of a new classification system.

"In modernizing our enlisted rating system we are not only giving our Sailors increased opportunities within the Navy, but also increasing their opportunities when they transition out of the service. In aligning the descriptions of the work our Sailors do with their counterparts in the civilian world, while making it easier for our Sailors to obtain the credentials they'll need to be successful in the private sector," said Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus.

Chief of Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke emphasized, "We believe that opening enlisted career paths will enhance our ability to optimize talent in our enlisted workforce. This change is the first step of a multi-phased approach to help us do just that."

Former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Michael Stevens led the review earlier this year for the Secretary of the Navy on behalf of Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. John Richardson.

"We are all Sailors and changing our rating titles does not affect that," said current Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Steven S. Giordano, who relieved Stevens Sept. 2. "While we certainly understand that this represents a significant cultural shift for the Navy and will take time to become fully adapted throughout the Fleet, this is about giving Sailors more choice and flexibility and ultimately providing the Navy opportunities to get the right Sailors with the right training and experience in the right billets."

Giordano described how this change will work.

"Sailors would no longer be called, 'yeoman second class' or YN2, for example," he said. "Instead they will be 'second class petty officer, or 'petty



Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. John Richardson discusses the Navy's rating modernization during an all hands call with Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Steven Giordano. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Martin L. Carey)

officer.' However, Sailors' rates will not change: an E-7 will remain a Chief Petty Officer and an E-3 will remain a seaman. Additionally, there will no longer be a distinction between 'airman, fireman and seaman.'"

This change will also allow

the Navy to more accurately identify Sailors' skills by creating "Navy Occupational Specialty" (NOS) codes that allow greater assignment flexibility for Sailors throughout their career and will

See *Enlisted* on pg. 4

Bells ring out, help honor the memory of our fallen

by Jason Kucera
NASCC Public Affairs



Master Chief Petty Officer Jeffrey Tidwell, command master chief, NASCC, reads off the names of the fallen during the Bells Across America ceremony aboard the base. For each name read, Petty Officer 1st Class Bridget Dehoyas rang the bell. (Photo by Jason Kucera, NASCC Public Affairs)

In honor of fallen service members, NAS Corpus Christi held a remembrance ceremony on Sept. 22 aboard the base as part of Navy Gold Star Families Day.

The ceremony took place inside the protestant chapel with several family members attending in support of their lost loved one.

Coreynthia Williams, Installation Gold Star Coordinator, works closely with each Gold Star family to ensure their son, daughter, husband, wife, uncle, aunt, brother or sister is always given the respect they deserve.

"They take that tragedy and they build this most amazing, strong, beautiful life," said Williams, "and they honor their heroes in everything that they do."

Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer, NASCC, spoke during the ceremony directly to the Gold Star family members in attendance thanking each of them for not only attending, but continuing to remember and honor their service member.

"I thank you personally for what you did in order to support them during their time and what you continue to do to support them now in remembrance of their service and their

See *Bells* on pg. 9

Captain's Column



Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer

Hispanic Heritage Month

Every year from Sep. 15 – Oct. 15, the United States recognizes the rich cultural traditions of the Hispanic American community and the history of Hispanic Americans in this country.

This is a time to pay tribute to the contributions Hispanic Americans have made in shaping America's culture and achievements. It is an opportunity for all Americans to celebrate the success of generations of Hispanic Americans - from military and public service to business, education, and the arts - as they have enriched our overall national heritage.

As you know, realizing the promise of the United States requires a secure country. Here at NASCC, we would like to honor the many Hispanic Americans who wear the uniform and serve. We honor the 200,000 Hispanic Americans who serve in our Armed Forces, who are working to spread liberty so we can

be secure here at home. They are doing the hard work today so our children and grandchildren can grow up in peace.

Additionally, we honor all Hispanic American police, firefighters, and emergency rescue personnel who risk their lives each day to protect our communities. We appreciate the fact that they have volunteered to serve, and it is an honor to work alongside you. Thank you for your service!

Combined Federal Campaign

We are kicking off the season of giving with the annual CFC Fund Drive. CFC promotes philanthropy with an effective program to provide federal employees with the flexibility to donate to the charity of their choice. You have complete control over how much you give, and to which organization.

The 2016 Texas Coast CFC drive runs Oct. 3 – Nov. 18. I'm pleased to announce that my local co-chair this year is the CCAD commander, Col. Allan Lancetta. This year's NASCC CFC representative is Chief Petty Officer James Jennings, 961-3115.

During the campaign, our goal is 100 percent contact of all military and civilian federal government employees along the Texas coastal area. We want to provide everyone with an opportunity to financially support eligible non-profit organizations that

provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

Many of the organizations that can be supported are local non-profits, so you can make a difference right here in the South Texas region.

CFC is designed to protect us from frequent requests for donations throughout the year. Except for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive, and emergency disaster appeals, the CFC is the only human health and welfare fund-raising effort permitted for our military and civilian federal employees.

One of the greatest advantages of donating through CFC is that you can set up your contribution to be deducted in installments directly from your paycheck. These payroll deductions will begin the first pay period in January 2017 and continue throughout the year. Another advantage that will be new to many of you this year is the ability to donate online.

A your designated CFC representatives begin to solicit for donations, they will provide you with all of the information you need. During last year's CFC drive, our goal of 100 percent contact resulted in raising over \$800,000. We look forward to another successful fund drive this year. Thanks in advance for your generous support.

Chaplain's Message



Farewell to
a proven
professional

Lt. Kevin Jackson
Command Chaplain

First impressions last forever. I must admit, my first impression of Steven Arndt was absolutely spot on. He presented himself as a kind human being and a dedicated professional. Steven has a delightful way of contributing to intellectual conversations. He will wait patiently until you have pontificated all of your well-intended points and gently relay words of wisdom that make you reconsider your previous position. Not to mention, he will on-the-spot tell you

what your personality traits are using his vast knowledge of Myers-Briggs. You will oftentimes walk away pondering some deep intellectual principle dropped by Steven.

Steven has served as the Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) facilitator for three years at NAS Corpus Christi. During his tenure, Arndt has provided training, workshops and retreats that have strengthened the well-being and individual resiliency of our service members, civilians and military families. Steve's efforts have ensured that our service members and civilians remained at the highest levels of mission readiness and spiritual fitness.

In addition, Steve has provided CREDO services to Joint Readiness Base Fort Worth, Joint Readiness Base San Antonio, NAS Kingsville and a host of other agencies throughout Texas and the Southeast Region. He is leaving a strong legacy of profes-

sionalism, outstanding customer service and an unwavering commitment to our service members.

Although we will miss him greatly, the Religious Ministry Team of NAS Corpus Christi would like to wish Steven and his family great success in their future endeavors. We are all confident that he will go on to make significant impact in the lives of our service members and their dependents at his next duty assignment. Grace and peace to a proven professional.

WORSHIP SERVICES ABOARD NASCC:

CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE
Base Catholic Chapel
Daily Mass Mon-Thurs & 1st Fri: 11:30 a.m.
Sunday Mass: 9 & 11 a.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE
Base Protestant Chapel
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

Wingspan

The *Wingspan* is published every other week by *The Port Lavaca Wave*, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas. The *Wingspan* is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Navy, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, or *The Port Lavaca Wave*, of the products and services advertised herein. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher may refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. All editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Public Affairs Office. Comments, letters, or suggestions should be sent via e-mail to: nascc-pao@navy.mil. To advertise in the *Wingspan*, contact *The Port Lavaca Wave* at afrench@plwave.com or call (361) 746-4341.

Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer

Fifi Kieschnick
Public Affairs Officer

Jason Kucera
Editor



Wingspan



NASCC Facebook



This paper is published for people like Danielle Stevens who manages the Deli and Bakery at the commissary. Stevens is a native of San Diego, California, and has been here three years now.

Flu season is here, shots available aboard NASCC

by Bill Love
NHCCC Public Affairs

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi began administering seasonal flu shots Sept. 26.

Active duty personnel, their dependents, retirees, and all TRICARE beneficiaries are urged to get protected by visiting NHCCC Immunization Clinic M-F from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu, and it is crucial to mission readiness for Sailors and Marines.

Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The more people who get vaccinated, the more people will be protected from flu, including older people, very young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious flu complications.

The flu, or influenza virus, can last a few days for some people, but can be more severe for others. Symptoms include a fever, sore throat, chills, fatigue, cough, headache and muscle aches. Those who become much sicker may develop pneumonia, and it can also be dangerous for people with heart or

breathing problems.

The vaccination takes about two weeks for the protection to develop, but once it does, it lasts up to an entire year.

Besides getting a seasonal flu vaccine, you can take everyday preventive actions like staying away from sick people and washing your hands to reduce the spread of germs. If you are sick with flu, stay home from work or school to prevent spreading flu to others. In addition, there are prescription medications called antiviral drugs that can be used to treat influenza illness. Visit *What You Should Know About Flu Antiviral Drugs* <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/antivirals/whatyoushould.htm> for more information.

Currently, only the influenza immunization for ages 3 and up is available at NHCCC. When Pediatric doses arrive, the clinic will alert the community via RelayHealth and social media.

If you are an eligible TRICARE beneficiary getting your health care at NHCCC, be sure and sign-up for RelayHealth: <https://app.relayhealth.com/Patients/Registration.aspx?bid>, and follow NHCCC on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/nhccc>



Petty Officer Second Class Cruz A. Escobedo, a native of Houston, Texas, assigned to Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, administers a flu shot to Mr. R. Reyes. Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu. (U.S. Navy photo by Bill Love, NHCCC Public Affairs)



WELCOME to the Gulf Coast's Friendliest Airport

Our fast and friendly service will get you up and ready to go as quickly as possible.

- Newly Renovated Facilities • Pilot Lounge
- No Landing or Ramp Fees • Transient Hangar Rental
- New Private T-Hangar Rental • Enterprise Rental Cars available
- Crew Car • Newly Updated Self Service Fuel system, Jet-A and Avgas



Working to get you on your way.
Calhoun Air Center provides self and full service fuel, tug service, flight planning and a friendly atmosphere.

Calhoun County Airport, KPKV

4876 FM 3084, Port Lavaca, TX 77979
361- 552-1228 |

Classifieds

HOUSECLEANING:

Weekly, twice monthly, or one-time cleaning services (move-outs etc.).

References Available.

NANCY 361-461-8292

FOR LEASE:

Gorgeous Padre Island townhomes for lease. On canal \$2,495.00, non-canal \$1,850.00 (furnished or unfurnished). Military Discount: 50% off security deposit. Call 361.739.8936 anytime.

TO HAVE YOUR AD

INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION, EMAIL AFRENCH@PLWAVE.COM. THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT CLASSIFIED ADS IS 5 P.M. THE THURSDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION. QUESTIONS REGARDING CLASSIFIED ADS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ASHLEY AT 361-746-4341.

HELP...ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY

If you are considering a move or know of someone who is - I can help.



Lora Marksbury

Military Relocation Specialist

Lora specializes in Military relocation.

Her 26 years of military life offers a unique insight and understanding of the complexities and frustrations of relocating and home ownership.

Please call me today.

Office.....(361) 992-9231 or (800) 825-5050

Mobile(361) 533-8648

E-mail: lmarksbury@corpuschristi-homes.com

COLDWELL BANKER

PACESETTERSTEEL REALTORS

5034 Holly Road • Corpus Christi, TX 78411

Enlisted cont. from pg. 1

be matched with similar civilian occupations to enable the Navy to identify credentials and certifications recognized and valued within the civilian workforce.

For example, a petty officer who used to be identified as a corpsman will now have a NOS matched as a medical technician. Medical technician better reflects the work and responsibilities of someone in that position and is better aligned with the civilian medical profession.

Sailors will be able to hold more than one NOS, which will give them a broader range of professional experience and expertise and will be grouped under career fields that will enable flexibility to move between occupational specialties within the fields and will be tied to training and qualifications.

As the Navy transforms its training to a mobile, modular and more frequent system called Ready Relevant Learning, combined with recent creation of the Billet-Based Distribution system that provides a more comprehensive picture of billet requirements fleetwide, this enlisted rating modernization plan will provide the ability to much more closely track a Sailor's training and professional development and match it to billets.

Going forward, this transformation will occur in phases over a multi-year period.

A working group was formed in July to

identify personnel policies, management programs and information technology systems that may require modifications over the years and months ahead—including changes to recruiting, detailing, advancements, training and personnel and pay processes.

Any follow-on changes that are made will proceed in a deliberate process that will enable transitions to occur seamlessly and transparently. Fleet involvement and feedback will be solicited during each phase of the transformation and we will carefully consider all aspects of enlisted force management as we move forward.

NASCC Command Master Chief, Jeffrey Tidwell, said, "Change has happened a lot in the almost 29 years I have been in the Navy and changes will always continue into the future. Right now, there is a wide assortment of feelings about this change and it is a big one. Soon, additional information will start being put out and over the next few years the end picture will start coming into focus."

"It's difficult for old timers like myself to comprehend this right now, but with patience, open minds and positive attitudes we will get through this change. No matter what, keep doing the great things you're doing," said Tidwell.

The Chief of Naval Personnel/N1 will lead the Navy's implementation efforts.

**Energy Conservation at work**

Two public works employees stand on a platform while power washing the exterior of Bldg. 2 aboard NASCC Sept. 30. Keeping the exterior of buildings free from dirt and mold buildup helps to prevent an overabundance of internal heat being trapped within the building, causing the HVAC system to work even harder than it should over the hot Texas...fall season. (Photo by Jason Kucera, NASCC Public Affairs)



Dramatically Improve Your Smile with the "Super Smile" Technique by Dr. Joseph Coniglio

Quality Treatment with

- Reasonable Fees
- Free Initial Exam
- No Down Payment
- Low Monthly Fees

**Less Treatment Time
Fewer Treatment Visits
Computer Assisted Technology with Fixed or Invisible Braces to Shorten Treatment Time and Achieve the Best Possible "Super Smile" with Minimal Discomfort and Lower Costs**

Neighborhood Offices:

- Corpus Christi
- Kingsville
- Portland
- Rockport
- 5 Points

**Dr. Joseph Coniglio, D.D.S., M.S.
Orthodontist
(361) 993-2333
5756 S. Staples • Corpus Christi**

Military Provider and most other major insurances accepted

Upcoming Community Events**Kingsville Farmers Market**

6th and Yoakum, Kingsville, Texas. Live music. Over 40 vendors. Locally grown fruits and vegetables. Locally produced grass-fed beef, organic chickens, jams and jellies. Locally made soaps, lotions, and balms. Home-made arts and crafts of all kinds. So much more! Every 4th Saturday of the month year round, 9 a.m. to noon. Dates may change around the Holidays. Call 361-455-1846 for information.

NAMI Meeting

NAMI Greater Corpus Christi will meet October 20, at 6:30 to 8 PM, at Bayview Behavioral Hospital Gymnasium, Wooldridge Rd., to celebrate the first birthday of the affiliate! Holly Doggett, Executive Director of the Texas National Alliance for Mental Illness will be our special guest. Programs and support groups will be discussed and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions. Resource booklets, literature, and books will be available. Birthday cake will be enjoyed! Please bring gifts to be given to the homeless. The event is free and open to all.

The Original Lobster Feast

The Corpus Christi International Seamen's Center is hosting a Lobster Feast Fundraiser from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at Brewster's Street Ice House. Enjoy fresh live Maine lobster with traditional New England sides for just \$30. All tickets are pre-sold. For tickets or questions, visit www.corpuschristiseamencenter.com or call 361-883-8405.

NAMI Support Group

NAMI Greater Corpus Christi, an affiliate of the National Alliance for Mental Illness, www.nami.org, now has a weekly support group for those working on recovery with mental illness - NAMI Connection - every Wednesday evening from 6 to 7:30 PM at Family Counseling Services, 3833 S. Staples, Room 218. A Family Support Group is held every first and third Friday from 7 to 8:30 PM at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 5830 Williams, Rm 1, Satellite Bldg. Both groups are free. No registration required. For more information, www.namitexas.org/nami-greater-corpus-christi

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION, EMAIL AFRENCH@PLWAVE.COM. THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT EVENTS IS 10 A.M. THE FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION. UPCOMING EVENTS ARE PUBLISHED AS SPACE PERMITS THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES AS TO HOW MANY TIMES AN EVENT WILL RUN. QUESTIONS REGARDING EVENTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ASHLEY AT 361-746-4341.



Keep The Sparkle In Your Smile!

**Tooth-colored fillings • Tooth bleaching
Crowns, bridges and veneers • Partial Dentures
Nightguards • Root Canals • Digital X-Rays & Photos**

**For our dental phobics we offer:
Nitrous Oxide Gas • Conscious Sedation (pills)**

**All the comforts of home including:
Blankets and Pillows • Warm Towels • Personal music by Pandora**

Now accepting : Metlife • United Concordia • GEHA

Anna C. Ashley, DDS, PA

Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

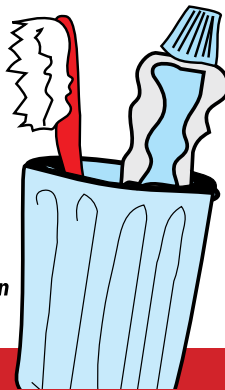
Schedule your appointment TODAY!

361-991-0102

Tuesday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

5314 Everhart, Suite A • www.annaashleyddspa.com

Like us on



What's Happening?

Pumpkin Patch! Asbury United Methodist Church, 7501 S. Staples St., will host its annual pumpkin patch from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and then 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays until Oct. 31. Pumpkin prices vary on size.

The Rockin' K Corn Maze is now open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The maze is at FM666 and CR52 in Robstown. Costs are 10 dollars ages 3 and up. Seniors and military are free.

Rockport-Fulton Seafair 2016 starts today and continues all weekend. Various musicians perform, children's activities along with gumbo and chili cook-offs!

Visit <http://www.rockport-fulton.org/Seafair-Home> to get all the details.

Port Aransas Old Town Festival this Friday to Sunday featuring a parade through Old Town, storytelling, chapel tours, surfing contests, kids' activities and more. Go to portaransasmuseum.org/2016-old-town-festival for more information.

Out of the Darkness community walk begins Saturday, Oct. 8, at 8 a.m. at Cole Park. The walk is designed to bring awareness and support survivors of attempted suicide and their families. Call 816-9966 for more information. Registration is on-site before the walk.

1st & 3rd Friday of each month, CYP hosts open recreation for teenagers ages 13-18 at the Youth Activities Center. Child must be registered. Contact the center at 961-2355.

The Catalina Club aboard NASCC is hosting NFL gameday action every Sunday throughout the season. They open their doors at 11 a.m. till 7 p.m.

On-Going

Wednesdays
Downtown Farmers Market, 5-8 p.m.
Art Center, free,
growlocalstx.com

Fridays
Food Truck Fridays every last Friday of the month. North Bayfront Park
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
1590 N. Shoreline Blvd.



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA)

Two options available:
100% online or on campus evening program

- Affordable tuition
- Complete coursework in as few as 12 months
- Prerequisite courses available for students with non-business undergrad degrees

For more information contact :
Sharon Polansky, Director of Master's Programs
sharon.polansky@tamucc.edu or 361.825.3448
cob.tamucc.edu



MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

- Open at 5 pm for Monday Night Football
- Offering food from our food truck "The Piggy Pot"
- Offering drink specials during the game



Dragonfly

14701 S.P.I.D. CC, TX 78418 • 361-949-2224



Hours: Tuesday - Thursday - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 4 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. • Friday - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday - 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. • Happy Hour Tuesday - Friday - 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Follow 'Dragonfly Restaurant' on Facebook [DFLYSPID14701@gmail.com](https://www.facebook.com/DFLYSPID14701@gmail.com)

WINGING PARTY HEADQUARTERS

VERANDA

RESTAURANT & BAR

CELEBRATE EARNING YOUR 'WINGS' AT OUR VERANDA RESTAURANT OR POUR HAUS LOUNGE



SCHLITTERBAHN

RIVERPARK & RESORT
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

PourHaus

LOUNGE

HAPPY HOUR DRINK PRICES
FOOD SPECIALS
DISCOUNTED RESORT ROOMS

Honoring Our Veterans

Editor's Note: This is one part in a series highlighting veterans in our community.

Chavez provides veteran leadership, spans more than four decades

by Jason Kucera
NASCC Public Affairs

A veteran looking out for fellow veterans isn't anything new. For several decades, after men and women return home from serving their country many choose to take part in veteran organizations.

Ramiro "Ram" Chavez, a former U.S. Army combat medic, has exemplified a second calling in helping his veteran sisters and brothers.

Ram is known to many in the veteran community of South Texas and beyond. He has many stories through his accomplishments as an advocate for veterans that span three decades. His love for music gave him a career in education as a band director and later as an assistant principal. His love for

a wounded Soldier on the battlefield.

Had Ram followed his dreams, he never would have put on Army green.

"I was drafted," he explained. "Before that I had been offered a recording contract. I had a Tejano band and that's what I was planning to do, to make music." However, before he could ever start putting music onto vinyl he was on a bus to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for boot camp in 1967. Thankfully, his brother who was also in the band told him they would wait for his return—which they did.

Once boot camp was up, he was told he was headed to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. "They told me I could be a part of the band there. I didn't even know where I was going at first, but I said it sounded good," Chavez said. "I didn't even hear them say they were sending me to medical school." It was the Army's intention to turn Chavez into a combat medic, not a member of the Army band.

"When I got there I went straight to the band hall and asked how I could join the band. They told me I had to re-enlist for three years, so I said sign me up," Ram said. However, Ram says he swears to this day he was told he had 30 days to think it over but in reality, they gave him until June 30. He missed the cutoff date, so the rest became history.

While his time in the Army and Vietnam lasted a short time span in Ram's life, it had everlasting memories and created motivation to carry him for the rest of his life.

"For a long time, in education, I was a band director. What I loved was

giving the kids direction and purpose, just teaching them," Chavez said. "The same purpose that drove me to get home from Vietnam drives me in a sense today."

Ram is retired from education, his last several years working for Corpus Christi Independent School District as an assistant principal. However, he continues to serve his community and his veterans through many avenues.

In 1986, Chavez founded the Veterans Band of Corpus Christi, as previously mentioned, that plays at several events sponsored by the city's various veteran groups and the Mayor's Veteran's Council throughout the year. The band also traveled to Hawaii recently to play at the decommissioning of the USS Corpus Christi (SSN705) at Pearl Harbor.

One of the most significant accomplishments Chavez feels he has made for the veteran and active military com-

munity is one that is obvious to the eye, but one he received very little attention for. In 1999 he served on the Texas Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations with then Texas state senator Carlos Truan. The commission would be responsible for recommending significant improvements to Texas's infrastructure that has helped installations such as Fort Hood become more efficient.

In 2003, Fort Hood was able to use the Port of Corpus Christi to deploy heavy equipment to support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. If you drove across the Harbor Bridge during this time, it was hard to miss the thousands of M1A1 Abrams tanks and HMMWV's (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle) lined up in the port.

More recent in the Fort Hood area, state highway 195, also known as the Phantom Express, named after the III Corps Phantom Warrior, expanded from a small, two-lane highway with several red lights into a heavily re-enforced four-lane highway that creates a greater traffic flow to move equipment for the largest Army installation when needed.

Those are just a couple of endeavors that



Ramiro Chavez, right, poses with his life long friend, Pasqual Ramirez, after receiving the Silver Star more than 40 years after his actions on the battlefield saved the lives of two of his fellow Soldiers in Vietnam. (Photo courtesy of Ramiro Chavez)

Chavez, along with the commission, were able to help get accomplished that truly helps the state of Texas stay as an advantageous location for the Armed Forces.

Chavez encourages veterans from the current generation of America's armed forces to start getting involved with the veteran community.

He says, "We need younger folks to participate. We need their drive and youth to lead the different veteran programs for a long time to come as us older vets are having a harder time doing what we do."



Jim Hiser, left, and Ramiro "Ram" Chavez, right, stand together at their base camp in Vietnam shortly after each being pinned with a Purple Heart for wounds received during battle in 1968. (Photo courtesy of Ramiro Chavez)

veterans additionally spawned the Veterans Band of Corpus Christi.

A lively man at 70, Ram recalls the names of friends he served with in Vietnam, while assigned to the Redcatchers of Delta Co., 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 199th Light Infantry Brigade, from 1967-1968. The unit he was assigned would infamously run head-on into the Tet Offensive January 30, 1968, while out on a night patrol. For several months following, the battles between U.S. forces and the North Vietnamese Army would be brutal.

During this time, Chavez also took action several times to save the lives of the Soldiers on the front-line. He would also go on to receive a Purple Heart for wounds received during a battle in May 1968, a Bronze Star with a "V" device—for valor and 40 years later Ram received the Silver Star, recognizing him for when he was left exposed to enemy fire while rendering aid and retrieving



The Veterans Band of Corpus Christi sits in front of the USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN705) following a performance this past May at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, during the decommissioning of the 33 year old Los Angeles class submarine. (Photo courtesy of Ramiro Chavez)

Bravo Zulu

From left, Douglas, Liliane, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Kimberly Ellis stand with Cmdr. Scott Wilmot, executive officer, NASCC, following Petty Officer 2nd Class Ellis's re-enlistment ceremony. Ellis has been assigned to NASCC legal department the past two years and will continue to serve here for the next seven months as a legalman. In addition to her naval service, Ellis enjoys spending time with her family at the beach, going to San Antonio, and baking to her heart's content. She is hoping to go to a squadron but is excited for what the Navy will bring her at her next command. (Photo by Jason Kucera, NASCC Public Affairs)



Mike Domitrz, far right, leads an in-depth conversation with Sailors and other NASCC personnel about sexual assault, safe dating and relationships at Wings Auditorium Sept. 27. He is the founder of the Date Safe Project and has toured the globe giving training to service members for several years. (Photo by Jason Kucera, NASCC Public Affairs)



Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer, NASCC, presents Petty Officer 2nd Class Vanessa Jacobs with the Navy Achievement medal for her service while assigned to Security, NASCC, the past three years. Jacobs is off to her next assignment in El Salvador. (Photo by Jason Kucera, NASCC Public Affairs)



Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer, NASCC, presents Petty Officer 2nd Class James Haney with the Navy Achievement medal encapsulating his service while assigned to Security aboard the base. He'll attend the military working dog handler's course before reporting to his next assignment. (Photo by Jason Kucera, NASCC Public Affairs)

Two Johns'

Barbershop

2401 Cimmaron Blvd, Ste 107
Corpus Christi, TX 78414
(361) 850-0080
Tue-Fri 10 am-6pm Sat 9am-5pm
Veteran owned and staffed
Active Duty Military Discounts always
Walk ins Welcome



Oso Mini Storage

Convenient • Clean • Climate Controlled • Security Cameras • Fully Fenced
Access Controlled • Self Storage In Corpus Christi

1533 Flour Bluff Rd
Corpus Christi, TX 78418

361-939-7867
OsoMiniStorage.com



Casual Waterfront Dining
FREE Sunsets

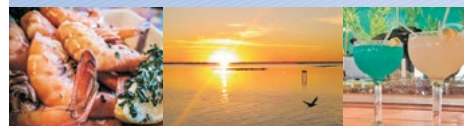


Daily Blackboard Specials

Featuring Live Music by Local Artists

Scenic View of Boats, Wildlife
and Breathtaking Sunsets

Doors Open Daily at 11am



Located on Padre Island under the JFK Bridge
13309 S. Padre Island Dr.
(361) 949-6744 • docsseafoodandsteaks.com
Major Credit Cards Accepted

Looking for Accident Witnesses!

Motor Vehicle Accident occurred:

- Monday, September 19 •
- Approximately 3:15-3:20 P.M. •
- Headed to base outside NAS CC North Gate on Ocean Drive. •
- Vehicles involved were a Grey Dodge Truck and a White Car. •

Any and all information is appreciated.
Please contact Ret. Sgt. Martinez at
361-215-2140

We Proudly Support Our Military!



Humpal
Physical
Therapy
& Sports
Medicine
Centers

www.HumpalPhysicalTherapy.com

5026 Deepwood Cir. Corpus Christi, Tx 784-2278
2150 W. Wheeler Aransas Pass, Tx 758-5199
114 Lang Rd. Portland, Tx 643-8243
1811 Broadway (aka Fulton Beach Rd.) Rockport, Tx 729-8777
(also located in Calallen & Alice)

The Original LOBSTER FEAST



Fresh Live Maine Lobster with Traditional New England Sides
Benefiting

THE CORPUS CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL SEAMEN'S CENTER

BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT: www.corpuschristiseamenscenter.org

WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 12, 2016 • 5pm to 8pm
BREWSTER'S STREET ICE HOUSE



Tickets - \$30 Per Person
All Tickets are Pre-Sold
No Tickets will be Sold at The Door!

Music By Still Crazy!
SILENT AUCTION
FUN - FUN - FUN!!!

For Credit Card Ticket Purchases and Information Call the Seamen's Center • 361-883-8405
1501 Mesquite Street at Fitzgerald • Open 11 am to 9pm • Daily

WELCOME TO VOTE TEXAS

Where barbecue and voting facts are served daily.

You must show approved
photo ID at the polls.

TEXAS-ISSUED



US-ISSUED



(ID CAN BE EXPIRED UP TO FOUR YEARS)

Unable to obtain one of these IDs?

FILL OUT A DECLARATION AT THE POLLS
DESCRIBING A REASONABLE IMPEDIMENT OR
DIFFICULTY TO OBTAINING IT, AND SHOW ONE OF
THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

- VALID VOTER REGISTRATION CARD
- CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE (MUST BE AN ORIGINAL)
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF CURRENT UTILITY BILL
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF BANK STATEMENT
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF GOVERNMENT CHECK
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF PAYCHECK
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS (ORIGINAL REQUIRED IF IT CONTAINS A PHOTOGRAPH)

Election Day:
November 8th



Early Voting:
Oct. 24th - Nov. 4th

PLAN YOUR TRIP TO THE POLLS @ VOTETEXAS.GOV ☎ 1 (800) 252-VOTE 📱 /TXSECRETARY

Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a permanent exemption to showing photo ID at the polls. The application must contain written documentation from either the U.S. Social Security Administration evidencing he or she has been determined to have a disability or from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs evidencing a disability rating of at least 50 percent.

NASCC, NASK celebrate area Ombudsman

Photos and story by Jason Kucera
NASCC Public Affairs

As part of Ombudsman Appreciation Month, leadership and ombudsmen from NAS Corpus Christi, NAS Kingsville, along with various tenant commands, came together to celebrate their respective command ombudsman at an appreciation dinner Sept. 30 aboard NASCC.

An ombudsman is an official representative of a commanding officer and they serve as a direct link between a command and its families.

"This dinner is a way to say thank you to all of you for what you do helping our families and our Sailors," said Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer, NASCC.

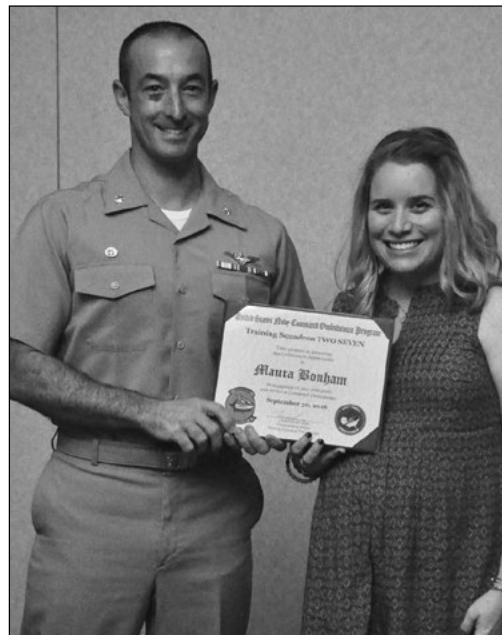
Sailors and their families in unfamiliar locations may experience emergencies they may not know how to solve or where to go for help. Families may also need

to contact a Sailor on deployment and ombudsmen help ease this process.

Supplying information about programs and organizations like Fleet and Family Support Centers, Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, Chaplains, legal assistance services, ombudsmen are a proven asset for Sailors and their families in South Texas.

Among those receiving certificates of appreciation were:

Tina Carpenter, NASCC
Melissa Smith, NAS K
Idella Cutler, NHCCC
April Sales, NBHCK
Jodi Learner, VT21
Maura Bonham, VT27
Holly Jones, NOSC



Cmdr. Corbett Dixon, commanding officer, VT27, presents Maura Bonham, command ombudsman, with a certificate of appreciation Sept. 30.



Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer, NAS Corpus Christi, presents Tina Carpenter, command ombudsman, a certificate of appreciation for her service to NASCC during the annual ombudsman celebration dinner.



April Sales, command ombudsman, NBHCK, receives her certificate of appreciation from Capt. Marnie S. Buchanan, executive officer, NHCCC.

Bells cont. from pg. 1

lives," Banta said. "Today's ceremony is not just a sad occasion, but it's also a celebration of their lives."

During the ceremony, Command Master Chief Jeffrey Tidwell read off more than 60 names of deceased warriors. After each name, a bell was ringed to always remember.

In 1936, Congress officially designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day, derived from the American custom during World War I of families hanging a banner or flag from their window with a colored star to denote a family member serving in the armed forces. A blue star indicated the military member was serving, but a gold star indicated the member had been killed in the service to the nation. In 2012, Gold Star Mother's Day was formally expanded to include Gold Star Families.



Jodi Learner received a certificate of appreciation from Cmdr. Geoff Stow, VT21 commanding officer, NASK for her time as a command ombudsman.



Capt. Eric Spitzer, commanding officer, NAS Kingsville, presents Melissa Smith, command ombudsman, with a certificate of appreciation during the annual ombudsman celebration dinner aboard NASCC Sept. 30.



Capt. Marnie S. Buchanan, executive officer, NHCCC, presents command ombudsman Idella Cutler her certificate of appreciation for her dedicated service to the Sailors and family members of NHCCC.





**REPLACE SMOKE
ALARMS EVERY
10 YEARS**

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 9-15, 2016**

firepreventionweek.org

©NFPA 2016. Sparky® is a trademark of the NFPA.



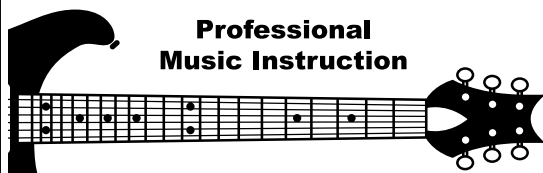
#241NavyBday

Created by Naval History and Heritage Command - www.history.navy.mil

READY.

Need Music Lessons?

Guitar • Bass • Drums • Piano • Violin • Voice • Cello



**Professional
Music Instruction**

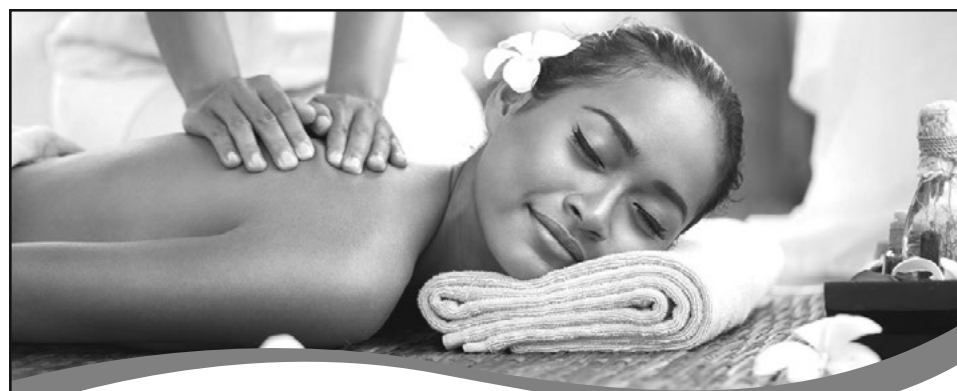
- Professional Music Instruction
- Children and Adults of all ages
- University Trained Instructors
- No Contract or Registration Fee
- Gift Certificates Available

MUSICIAN'S ACADEMY

Sunrise Mall Ste. 37C

Lower level SPID entrance between
Planet Fitness and Sears Auto

361-993-3428 • www.MusiciansAcademy.com



Island
DAY SPA

13915 S. Padre Island Drive • Corpus Christi, TX 78418

361-949-1444 • www.islanddayspacc.com

Aveda hair, body, and skin retail center

Family Dentistry Dr. G.S. Fossum, D.D.S. P.C.

dental care in Flour Bluff for the whole family



**9301 S.P.I.D.
Hours by Appointment
Monday thru Friday
937-5555**

Tri-Care Provider



WILLIAM A. THAU III, P.C.

Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve, Ret.

Former U.S. Navy Lawyer

- Divorce & Separation
- Child Custody & Support
- Adoption/Guardianship
- Paternity Cases
- Wills & Probate
- Military Law
- Auto Accidents
- Personal Injury
- DWI
- Criminal Defense



**5337 YORKTOWN BLVD., SUITE 4A2 • CORPUS CHRISTI
(361) 980-3700 • Toll Free 1-877-888-1369**

Licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas

Former President of the Corpus Christi Family Law Association (1999-2000)

Selected as a Texas "Super Lawyer" in November 2003, October 2004, and October 2005 issues of *Texas Monthly*
Awarded the Client Distinction Award for 2015 by Martindale-Hubbell

OPERATION EDUCATION

Saint Leo University is a major global provider of higher education to the military. We offer affordable academic excellence with superior academic counseling to active duty military, veterans, and civilians.

📍 CONVENIENTLY LOCATED ON NAS CORPUS CHRISTI

Set up an appointment with a Saint Leo Enrollment Counselor today

Earn Your Associate, Bachelor's or Master's Degrees
Online, or on Base at our NAS Corpus Christi location.

- Approved for VA Benefits/GI Bill®
- Prior Learning Assessment available
- Programs designed to fit your schedule
- A participating member of the Yellow Ribbon Program
- Saint Leo is a non-profit, regionally accredited, higher education institution



CLASSES FORMING NOW • REGISTRATION IN PROGRESS



Call Today 888.875.8265

corpuschristi@saintleo.edu

SaintLeo.edu/MIL

NAS Corpus Christi

10461 D Street

Bldg. 1731 | Room 206



TO HONOR OUR VETERANS & ACTIVE DUTY HEROES,

**MORTGAGE FINANCIAL SERVICES WILL BE PROUDLY
WAIVING ALL LENDER FEES ON VA LOAN APPLICATIONS
TAKEN BEFORE VETERANS DAY, 11/11/16.**

For more information on refinancing or buying a new home with low mortgage rates, please call:

(361) 445-3995



CAREN COLMERY CHILDERS
RMLO - NMLS ID 232827
c: (361) 774-8500
ccchilders@mfsus.com



RUSTY WILLIAMS
RMLO - NMLS ID 230938
c: (361) 779-3557
rwilliams@mfsus.com



KATIE JENNINGS
RMLO - NMLS ID 1266358
c: (832) 573-9151
kjennings@mfsus.com



SPONSOR MFS, NMLS ID 43021 | 5656 S. Staples St., Suite 222 | Corpus Christi, TX 78411

Mortgage Financial Services, LLC is an Equal Housing Lender. NMLS 43021 (www.mortgagefinancial.com) | 817-601-9010. Interest rates and products are subject to change without notice and may or may not be available at the time of loan commitment or lock-in. Borrowers must qualify at closing for all benefits.